

MILESTONES ON THE WAY TO BUILDING A WATERWAY

1800s: Indians, French explorers, traders, military suppliers, and shippers used the Arkansas River for water transportation in various small boats and steamboats.

1907: Interest in navigation was rekindled around the time of Oklahoma statehood and smoldered for decades in various community booster groups.

1920: Newt Graham appointed to Tulsa Chamber Waterways Committee and became an avid booster for Arkansas River navigation.

1943: Arkansas River flood disasters focused attention of Oklahoma

Gov. Bob Kerr on water resources development. Corps developed a multipurpose plan for the river and its tributaries.

1946: River and Harbor Act authorized the multipurpose plan, including Arkansas River navigation.

1950: Construction started on Oologah Reservoir, then stopped because of the Korean conflict.

1954: The navigation project was classified as inactive, then restudied.

1955: The navigation project was revised and reclassified to active status.



Work was progressing in 1965 on Webberville Lock and Dam.